Balt. Jamaica

24 June 1862

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir

As Mr. Allen is now here and has promised to deliver this with a parcel containing a few specimens of Ferns &c. I readily avail myself of his kind offer. I often think of you and the very kind reception you gave me, when I had the happiness of seeing you in New York since my return I have often thought of sending something which might interest you. but in truth I am at a loss to know what would be the most interesting but few of our plants are novel to you, — I therefor purpose getting up a small collection of Ferns & sending by & by. I have

contributed for the London
Exhibition 125 Fibres (and 17
Barks. (and am informed that
the collection is the best there
and which ought to lead to new
sources of industry and of considerable
commercial importance. which
will most certainly not be the result
of native or Creole enterprize, nor
do I suppose England will en-
courage industry or make much use
of this fine Island, in the Hands
of Americans it would be like a
Paradise. ——— Our Botanical
matters are all but at a stand-still.
I have represented on Government
to purchase land for a New Botanic
(and a commencement has been
made but as I am allowed
no skilled assistance, it is doubtful
if the place will not be abandoned
Our Niggers in the Legislature

Assembly have no great taste
for flora, consequently will not
support an efficient grant to
carry out designs or conduct
practical operations, so that I
may say our advance, Botanical
is but little if any more than when
I saw you in 1835. We are
in common with other Tropical
Colonies, endeavouring to establish
a Cinchona plantation, and I have
proved complete success in rearing
some 300 plants from Seeds, direct
from Peru & Guayaquil, The Red-
bark comes from the latter place
on the Chimborazo: about 2600 feet
altitude & admirably suited for
extensive cultivation on our coast
mountains. I observe the
bark is now selling at 1/6 P. lb.
and as a tree will yield from 250
to 300 lbs. an acre of these trees at

full maturity would realize over £500 Stg. nevertheless I have my doubts of this cultivation meeting with encouragement with us. ——— An attempt is also being made to grow Cotton by a Manchester Company. The samples sent home are said to be superior to that grown in the Southern States of America (as it has been valued at 1/6 x 2/ Pd. lb.) The tree grows to great perfection and will continue to produce good crops for 10 or 12 years. ——— I hope I shall have the pleasure of hearing from you. (and to hear you are well

I am Dear Sir

Dr Torrey

yours Most Respectfully

Wm. Wilson

P.S. Should you have any duplicate specimens to spare pray let Professor Gray have them

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY